

Media, PA – During his first year in office, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) met individually with leaders from nearly every local municipal government in Pennsylvania’s 7th Congressional District to discuss important issues affecting their localities. Key in these discussions was the role of grants and appropriations processes in securing federal, state and private dollars to finance local projects. As a follow-up to these meetings, the Congressman has invited all municipal leaders in the district to attend one of four forums from January 8 – January 12, and encouraged first responders to attend a special meeting on February 5. — At the forums, Congressman Sestak will provide an overview of the appropriations process and discuss the importance of applying for federal, state and private grants. In addition, he will give each level of government a copy of The Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District Grant and Resource Directory, which was compiled by his office and provides basic guidance in the grant process along with an extensive list of state and federal grant opportunities. The forums will conclude with a period of dialogue between local leaders and Congressman Sestak. When he took office the Congressman promised municipal leaders that he would meet with them formally once a year to listen to their concerns, and hold individual meetings as appropriate.

“These forums allow for a much-needed two-way conversation between local government leaders and their federal representative,” said Congressman Sestak. “I look forward to continuing to work with all local leaders to access funding for important projects that secure the welfare of our constituents, and bringing the needs and concerns of our local governments to the attention of those in Washington.”

During the Congressman’s first term, numerous local municipalities received grants to help fund projects that benefit their communities. For instance, the Lafayette Ambulance and Rescue Squad received a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant; Upper Darby Township secured Department of Justice funding for their community Weed & Seed program; and Delaware County received funding from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program to aid in crime prevention and control.

The meetings will be held at the following times, dates, and locations:

January 8, Tuesday, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Lansdowne YMCA
2110 Garrett Road
Lansdowne, PA 19050

January 9, Wednesday, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Middletown Free Library
21 N. Pennell Road
Lima, PA 19037

January 12, Saturday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
West Goshen Township Municipal Building
1025 Paoli Pike

West Chester, PA 19380

January 12, Saturday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Lower Providence Community Library
50 Parklane Drive
Eagleville, PA 19403

First Responders Meeting
February 5, Tuesday, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Brookhaven Borough Hall
2 Cambridge Road, Suite 100
Brookhaven, PA 19015

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.